

Amendments to Senate Joint Resolution No. 18  
3rd Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Fred Thomas

For the House Judiciary Committee

Prepared by Jaret Coles  
March 12, 2013 (6:48am)

1. Title, page 1, line 7.

**Following:** "~~BUDGET,~~"

**Insert:** "ANNUALLY PRODUCE A BALANCED BUDGET,"

**Following:** "ANNUAL"

**Insert:** "ANNUAL"

**Following:** "~~LEVELS,~~"

**Insert:** ", "

2. Page 1, line 30.

**Following:** line 29

**Insert:** "WHEREAS, the fiscal policies of the United States federal government have placed our country on an untenable path, creating unprecedented debt, hindering job creation, and threatening future generations of Montanans with a bleak future; and

WHEREAS, high levels of debt directly threaten the ability of a government to control its own budget priorities; and

WHEREAS, our nation's fiscal crisis threatens our economy and national security, has contributed to a loss of trust in government, and exposes individual states to dire economic times; and

WHEREAS, the federal government in 2011 raised the debt ceiling to prevent the United States from facing its first ever default; and

WHEREAS, the interest expense on our national debt exceeds \$151 billion for fiscal year 2013, and by 2023, interest on the national debt is estimated to be nearly \$900 billion; and

WHEREAS, payments on our nation's debt exceed \$200 billion annually, and as a result, the credit rating of the United States in 2011 was lowered for the first time; and

WHEREAS, by borrowing revenue from the future and spending it today, our nation's debt is being passed on to future generations who have no say in the decisionmaking process; and

WHEREAS, passing our debt to the next generation is contradictory to the American principle of leaving our nation, states, and local communities in better shape than we found them; and

WHEREAS, the federal debt threatens the livelihood of

Montana's veterans; and

WHEREAS, the federal cost of Medicaid expansion across all states is projected to add \$931 billion or nearly \$1 trillion to the national debt; and"

3. Page 2, line 8.

**Following:** line 7

**Insert:** "WHEREAS, the people of Montana expect and demand the same of our federal government; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed to approve a budget since 2009 and has not produced a balanced budget since 2001; a budget is not only a constitutional requirement, it is a fundamental responsibility and a reflection of principles and vision; and"

4. Page 2, line 14.

**Following:** "~~budget,~~"

**Insert:** "annually produce a balanced budget,"

**Following:** "~~annual~~"

**Insert:** "annual"

**Following:** "~~levels,~~"

**Insert:** ", "

- END -